been reopened. The Consulate General in Karachi was closed during 1994-95 as a result of unilateral decision by the Pakistani Government. Our Embassy in Kabul became temporarily inoperative due to the security situation during 1994-95.

Backlog of Passport Applications

3927. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking any action to clear the backlog of applications for Passport as thousands of applicants are waiting for a long time to get the passport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government monitor the performance of Passport Offices on weekly basis with a view to clearing backlog of passport applications. Some of the steps taken in this direction are; (i) close and regular coordination with concerned police authorities in those cases where the backlog has accumulated due to incomplete reports; (ii) sending periodic reminders to applicants to meet the deficiencies in their application forms and to submit additional documents wherever required with a view to clearing backlog on this account; (iii) augmentation of staff strength to reduce and clear pendencies; (iv) upgradation of office facilities including computerisation leading to faster screening and processing of applications; (v) opening of new offices and Collection Centres; (vi) review of systems and procedures in order to avoid delays which result in the creation of backlog; (vii) increasing the size and validity period of the passport; (viii) expansion of list of offiers authorisied to sign Verification Certificates; (ix) regular inspection of Passport Offices by officers of the CPV Division with the specific aim of ensuring clearance of backlog and necessary follow-up action; and (x) setting up of Passport Advisory Committees.

Sainik Samachar

3928. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several ex-officers and Jawans of armed forces are subscribers of Sainik Samachar on regular mailing list;

(b) if so, the number of half yearly, yearly, two yearly and three yearly subscribers of Sainik Samachar separately;

(c) whether several subscribers have gone to the consumer courts for not getting the magazine in time;

(d) if so, how many cases are pending in the consumer courts against Sainik Samachar; and

(e) the expenses incurred by Government so far on these cases since the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)

Half Yearly	-	Nil
Yearly	-	9,000
Two Yearly	-	5,000
Three Yearly	-	6,000

(c) Four subscribers have gone to the consumer courts for not getting the magazine in time.

(d) One case is pending.

(e) Rs. 9,000/- approximately.

Reservation of seats for wards of Delhi University Employees

3929. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi University has decided to set apart a quota of seats in different courses for the wards of the University employees (both teaching and non-teaching);

(b) if so, details of the same and whether the candidates so provided seats will have to satisfy the minimum qualifications for admission;

(c) whether provision similar to above exist in other Central Universities; and

(d) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Anti-Tank Missile Tests

3930. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Anti-Tank missile tests have been conducted in near recent past;

(b) if so, details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether the development of the 'Nag' missile will boost the defence and fire power of our armed forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three flight tests of anti-tank missile 'NAG' were conducted successfully on 1st, 3rd and 8th August, 1996 respectively to prove its control and guidance systems.

(c) and (d). Development of 'NAG' will boost our defence and fire power against adversaries' tanks due to its capability to defeat all futuristic armours including reactive armour upto a range of 4 km and its 'top attack' and 'fire and forget' capability.

[Translation]

Eye Flue and Jaundice

3931. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rajdhani Men Ankho Ka Flu Wa Piliya Joron Par" appearing in Hindustan on August 22, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons suffering from these diseases in Delhi and in other States, State-wise; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check the spread of these diseases alongwith the amount of financial aid and other assistance provided to the States during the current financial year to fight these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Govt. is aware of the prevalence of Conjuctivitis (Ankho Ka Flu) in the Capital. Cases of Jaundice have also been occuring since May, 1996 in some parts of the capital. No such Survey about the number of persons suffering from these diseases has been undertaken.

(d) A Press Statement has been released by the Health Minister of the Govt. of Delhi including Do's and Dont's regarding Eye Flu. Some interviews have also appeared in Television in this regard. Under National Programme for Control of Blindness funds are being released to all the States/ UTs to implement Blindness Control activities. No specific grant is given to the States/UTs for the control of Conjuctivitis and Jaundice.

[English]

Asean Conference, Jakarta

3932. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation has visited Jakarta to attend the ASEAN Conference;

(b) if so, the composition of the delegation;

(c) the names of other countries who had participated in the Conference; and

(d) the issues discussed in the said conference and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. An Indian delegation visited Jakarta from 22nd to 25th July, 1996 to attend the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meetings.

(b) The delegation was led by the External Affairs Minister and included Foreign Secretary, Secretary (Economic Relations) and five other officials of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(c) The participation in the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) and the ARF included the seven ASEAN countries, viz. Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, ten Full Dialogue Partners of ASEAN, viz. Australia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and USA, and four Observers of ASEAN - Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea.

(d) The issues discussed at the Meetings included Middle East, Bosnia Herzegovina, World Trade Organisation and Disarmament issues including CTBT. Indo-ASEAN economic cooperation under the framework of the Dialogue Partnership was reviewed and an Agenda for Action established. It was agreed that future cooperation be pursued in the sectors of Trade, Investment, Science & technology, Tourism, Human Resource Development and Infrastructure. Academic, business cultural and media related inter-change is to be promoted.

Modernisation of Coronary Unit in Kerala

3933. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has sought clearance of the proposals to modernise the coronary unit of the Medical college hospitals at Calicut and Trivandrum; and